Vol. IX. Numb. 24.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Letters from Exeter, Sherborn, *and* Oxford, *of the Rebellious Practices of the Pretenders Churchmen. A Poem on their Paſſive Obedience. Remarks on Her Majeſty's moſt Gracious Speech to Both Houſes of Parliament on the 5th Inſtant. On the Addreſſes of the Faction.*

From Wednesday, April 5, to Saturday, April 8 1710.

Countrym. HEre are other Letters for you, Mr. *Obſervator*, with further Accounts of the Rebellious Practices of the Pretenders Churchmen; the Firſt is from *Exeter*, *March* 31. Thus,

SIR,

LAſt Monday *we had Ringing of Bells in this City, and ſome Bonfires at Night, into which ſome of Mr.* Hoadly's *Books were thrown; there was a Rude Mob in the Streets, who broke the Windows of ſeveral Moderate Churchmen and Diſſenters: They alſo broke Part of the Windows of a Meeting-houſe: They rag'd againſt the Presbyterians with a great deal of Bitterneſs; ſaid they would fling 'em into the Fires if they had them there: They briskey drank Dr.* Sacheverell's *Health: This is High Church Zeal, and Paſſive Obedience: What they deſign by all this I know not; but to tell you the Truth, tho' their Mob was very Numerous, yet it conſiſted chiefly of Boys and Women, with ſome Rude Fellows to head 'em, had the Oppoſite Party been minded to oppoſe 'em, they cou'd have rais'd a Body of Men ſufficient to have driven them out of the City; but they unanimouſly reſolv'd not to ſtir. Into one Fire they threw a Pair of Crutches, and ſaid they were Mr.* Hoadly's. *I am told by ſome* Frenchmen *in this Town, that when the Proteſtants had their Churches in* France *they were not thus inſulted, even by the Papiſts, who never attempted to pull down or deſtroy their Meeting-Houſes, or to break their Windows; ſo that in this our High-Church Gentlemen are worſe than the Papiſts. Indeed they pull'd down the Proteſtant Churches in* France, *when the King recall'd the Edict of* Nants, *and gave order for it, but not before: So that our Proteſtant High-Church have exceeded the Popiſh Church in Violence and Mad Zeal.*

I am, &c.

The Second is from *Oxford*, dated the 27th of *March*, with an Account that when the News of Dr. *Sacheverell's* Coming off ſo eaſily arriv'd there, one *L———rd*, a Chandler, and others, made a Bonfire at *Holy-Well* Corner, where they drank and ſhouted for Joy till almoſt Morning. And next Night there were Bonfires all over the City, the Bells were rung, and Mr. *Benjamin Hoadly's* Effigies and Books burnt in the Streets, where the Mob cry'd out, *God bleſs Doctor* Sacheverell. On *Friday* Night laſt about Two Hundred Scholars and Townſmen went Hollowing through the City in the ſame Manner, and deſign'd to have pull'd down the Meeting-houſe, but were prevented by ſome People, who adviſ'd them of the Danger.

The Third is from *Sherborn* in *Dorſetſhire*, *March* 29. which ſays, That when the News of the Doctor's Mild Puniſhment came thither the Bells were ſet a-ringing, and there were great Rejoicings, with Illuminations and Bonfires, in ſeveral Parts of the Town. Dr. *Sacheverell's* Health was drank in the *Town-hall* in *Aqua Mirabilis* by ſome of the Rabble upon their Knees, where they treated one Man in a very Rude Manner becauſe he refus'd it. Some Bottles of Wine were alſo ſent into the Church for another ſelect Company to drink the Doctor's Health; and People of both Sexes went to the Top of the Tower with Lights in their Hands, to do it with the more Solemnity. The Rabble in the mean Time beat a Drum about the Town, threaten'd to burn or pull down the Meeting-houſe, curs'd the Presbyterians to the Pit, and having Guns with them, fir'd at ſeveral of the Diſſenters Houſes, and particularly at that of the Diſſenting Miniſter: The Mob continued their Ringing of Bells even on the Lord's Day after, and when the Letter came away thoſe Riots were not ceaſed. On the *Tueſday* Night before, they rung the Bells had Bonfires and Illuminations on the Top of the Church-Tower, where Anthems were ſung by People of both Sexes, and Guns fir'd from it. It was not ſafe for any Diſſenters to appear in the Streets; and ſome few of the Meaner Sort, that happen'd to be there, were lifted up before they were aware by a Pole on Mens Shoulders, that the Mob had prepared on Purpoſe, and abus'd in a Barbarous Manner. On the *Munday*, when Doctor *Sacheverell's* Sermons were to be burnt by Authority, they made a Bonfire, and threw one of Mr. *Hoadly's* Books into it, after carrying it round the Fire, crying out all the while, a *Hoadly*, a *Hoadly*, a *Hoadly*.

Obſ. The People of *Sherborn* have exceeded all that we have yet heard of in Madneſs, *Roger*; I hope you have good Authority for this Account.

Countrym. Beſides what Account there is of their Rebellious Proceedings in Letters, Maſter, 'tis printed at the End of a Sermon preached there by the Diſſenting Miniſter, Mr. *England*, on the Faſt-Day, publiſh'd for Mr. *Clark*, at the *Bible* and *Crown* in the *Old-Change*, *London*, ſo that we are not to doubt the Truth of it; for no Man, eſpecially a Miniſter, would put his Name to a Story of ſuch a Nature, if it were not true.

Obſ. We may well pray, *Roger*, with a Learned and Excellent Biſhop; *Good Lord deliver us from ſuch Pretended Churchmen, and the Church from the Scandal of ſuch Pretenders*, who turn the Houſe of Prayer not only into a Den of Thieves, but a Den of Devils. Sure thoſe Men, who turn Churches into Houſes of Drunkenneſs, Riot, and Rebellion, cann't have the Face any more to complain that *Oliver* turn'd ſome of them into Stables: We ſee now that *Sacheverell's* Faction has fill'd the Church with Pagan Beaſts, as he expreſſes it in his St. *Paul's* Sermon; and by the Bleſſed Endeavours of he, and ſuch as he, our Univerſities abound with the ſame Unhallow'd Sort of Cattle.

Countrym. This puts me in mind, Mr. *Obſervator*, of a Copy of Verſes ſent us by a Gentleman, in Anſwer to a Seditious Lampoon handed about

about by the Faction; I thought them a little too ſevere at firſt, but theſe Rebellious Practices of the Pretender's Churchmen make them undoubtedly true: They are Entituled, *Fair Warning*, and run thus.

Madam, look out, your Title is arraign'd,
Sacheverell *ſaps the Ground whereon you ſtand.*
'Tis Revolution *that upholds the Throne,*
If Non-reſiſtance *thrive, then you are gone;*
If Paſſive Doctrine *boldly be reviv'd,*
Your Crown's precarious, and your Reign's ſhort-liv'd.
Such Notions with Impunity profeſt,
Will make the Power of Parliaments a Jeſt;
Their Acts of Settlements *like Ropes of Sand,*
And Hannover *may rule his Native Land.*
When Prieſts affirm no Limitation's good,
No Right but in Proximity of Blood,
Who ſees not the Pretender's *underſtood?*
Impatient for their Rightful Chevalier,
To Rome *and* France *they now directly ſteer,*
And ſwear the Houſe ſhan't ſit another Year.
Though Loyalty and Church be their Pretence,
Inherent Birthright is the Secret Senſe,
And Reſtauration is the Conſequence.

Obſ. Why truly, *Roger*, I take the Gentleman to be perfectly in the Right for Paſſive Obedience and Non-reſiſtance, which the Reverend and Honourable *Robert Lumley Lloyd*, Rector of *Covent-Garden*, ſaid in his 30th of *January* Sermon *was the prevailing Hereſie of the laſt Age*, is now become a Source of Rebellion in this.

Countrym. I want your Thoughts on Her Majeſty's moſt Gracious Speech to both Houſes of Parliament on the 5th Inſtant, Mr. *Obſervator*, for it has given the Pretender's Churchmen ſuch a Blow that they look very ſilly upon it.

Obſ. Her Majeſty has ſpoke like Herſelf, *Roger*; She makes good Her Motto of *Semper Eadem*; and as God has honoured Her hitherto, by making Her the Guardian Angel of *Europe*'s Liberties, he continues to inſpire Her with a Greatneſs of Soul anſwerable to it, which will make Her the Glory of all future Ages, as She is the greateſt Ornament of this. The Leaders of the Faction are paſt Cure, but we hope the Poor People who are deluded with a falſe Alarm of the Churches Danger, will have their Eyes open'd by this Speech, ſince all the World muſt own the Truth of what Her Majeſty ſays, 'That no Prince 'that ever ſat on the Throne has been more real-'ly and ſincerely Kind to the Church than Her-'ſelf, nor ever had a more True and Tender 'Concern for its Welfare and Proſperity than 'Her Majeſty has, and ſhall always continue to 'have. Her Majeſty juſtly complains of the In-'jurious Slanders of *Sacheverell* and his Faction, 'that the Church is in Danger from Her Admi-'niſtration, becauſe of Wicked and Malicious 'Libels, that have been complain'd of in all 'Times; the ſuppreſſing of which She has al-'ways earneſtly recommended, and declares Her 'Willingneſs to conſent to a Law for that End 'on the firſt Opportunity. 'Tis to be hop'd that no People who have any Senſe of Religion or Loyalty, will, after this ſuffer themſelves to be impos'd upon by the Pretender's Churchmen, to diſturb Her Majeſty's Government by Rebellious Tumults, or to continue our Diviſions by Seditious Addreſſes, to cover the Manifeſt Rebellion of the Faction, and throw the Blame of it upon Republicans, when there's Nobody of Men in the Nation, that either own the Name or Thing. 'Tis alſo to be hop'd, that the People will not ſuffer themſelves to be deluded by the hateful Tricks of the Faction, as if Her Majeſty did not appoint the Proceedings againſt Dr. *Sacheverell*, ſince She has now declar'd from the Throne that *they were neceſſary*.

Countrym. I hope ſo too, Mr. *Obſervator*; but if the Faction continue, then Rebellious and Seditious Practices, and their High-flying Prieſts, go on to be Incendiaries; they muſt not think that Her Majeſty, who has ſo far quell'd the Great Tyrant of *France*, as to force him to Sue for Peace, will ſuffer Herſelf to be continually inſulted by the Faction and their Rabble. She has, Bleſſed be God, the Hearts, Hands, and Purſes, of the far greater Part of the Nation at Her Command whenever She pleaſes, who would quickly rid the Iſland of thoſe Unnatural Monſters, or ſend them where they may enjoy the Popery and Slavery they are ſo fond of; but more of theſe Things another Time.

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